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## Court sees influx of petitioners filing for Prop. 207 expungements

Law Library Resource Center supports court customers seeking to clear marijuana convictions

PHOENIX (August 30, 2021) – Following passage of Prop. 207 in 2020, an average of 650 people a week are filing petitions with the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County to have felony marijuana-related convictions wiped off their records.

To assist petitioners, the Superior Court in Maricopa County's Law Library Resource Center, one of many organizations throughout Arizona helping with the expungement process, has posted all the necessary forms online at <a href="https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc/crex1">https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc/crex1</a> as well as instructions on how to file them.

"The Law Library Resource Center worked hard to ensure the forms and instructions are easy to complete for customers seeking to expunge their felony marijuana conviction or arrest record. They can download the forms and instructions for free on our website and follow the instructions for the remainder of the process," said Paula Collins, administrator of the Law Library Resource Center.

Under Prop. 207, which allowed the legalization, taxation and recreational use of cannabis for adults 21 and over, residents may petition the court to have their marijuana conviction expunged. Since filing started in July 2021, the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County has granted 3,643 petitions for expungement.

If a court grants a request to expunge a marijuana-related criminal charge, the case file and law enforcement records will be sealed, the conviction and sentence will be vacated along with any outstanding court debt imposed in connection with the expunged charge, and the defendant's civil rights will be restored as to the marijuana-related charges.

To see what offenses are eligible, visit <a href="www.azcourts.gov/prop207">www.azcourts.gov/prop207</a>.

Before filing a petition for expungement, customers should check with the court in which the case was resolved. If the conviction was adjudicated in a justice or city court, that court should be contacted for more information. If the case was resolved in the Juvenile Department of Superior Court, there is a juvenile petition to expunge. Lastly, anybody arrested but not charged will need to file a civil petition to expunge the record.

For more information on the expungement process, call the Law Library Resource Center at 602-506-7353, chat with a librarian at <a href="http://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc">http://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/llrc</a> or send an email to <a href="mailto:services@jbazmc.maricopa.gov">services@jbazmc.maricopa.gov</a>.

"Customers can also schedule an appointment on our website to visit any of the Law Library Resource Center locations and purchase the packet if they are unable to download and print the forms," Collins said.

Law Library Resource Center locations include Downtown Phoenix (101 W. Jefferson Street), Northeast Phoenix (18380 N. 40th Street), Surprise (14264 W. Tierra Buena Lane) and Mesa (222 E. Javelina Ave.).

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